

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 10, 2009

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500


Dear Mr. President:

As the representatives of the nearly 4.4 million Americans living in the five U.S. territories, we strongly support your Administration's call for timely and targeted legislation to reduce unemployment. Although we know that the precise content and timing of this job-creation package has not been finalized, we write to respectfully request that the territories be fully included in all spending and tax measures contained within such legislation. We were deeply grateful for your leadership in ensuring that our constituents were able to share in the benefits of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The positive impact that ARRA has had—and continues to have—in our territories cannot be overstated, and we hope we can work together to replicate that success in connection with the contemplated jobs and fiscal relief bill.

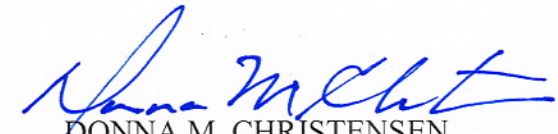
As you know, residents of the U.S. territories face the same economic challenges as their fellow Americans in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Unemployment rates in the territories are among the highest of all U.S. jurisdictions. Our local governments, like their counterparts in the states, are under tremendous fiscal pressures. As revenues decline, cuts in essential services may—or have already—become unavoidable. Our most vulnerable residents, who rely on social programs funded directly or indirectly by the government, are at particular risk. Infrastructure deficiencies, especially in the area of transportation, are prevalent in all of our jurisdictions.

For all these reasons, and because we know you share our belief that the U.S. territories are integral parts of this nation, we are hopeful that any job-creation package will fully include our constituents. We thank you for all your support and for your attention to this important matter.

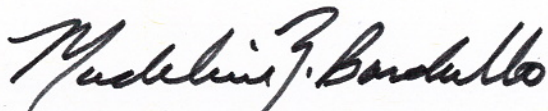
Sincerely,




ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA
Member of Congress



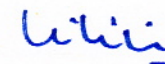
DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN
Member of Congress



MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress



PEDRO R. PIERLUISI
Member of Congress



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress

cc: Peter Orzag, Director, Office of Management and Budget